

Ellis Park

Race by Race Analysis

Monday, July 4 – Race Day 3

FIRST – REDREAM looks like the one to catch in this maiden turf sprint. He hasn't hit the board in five starts, but drops from \$20,000 race at Churchill where he set the pace and ended up 4th, beaten six lengths. Shorter distance here should help and not much other early speed evident. Just to his inside, BRO STROLL has caught sloppy tracks last two races, but his best race was turf sprinting at Fair Grounds this winter. MORE THAN SHIRL hasn't raced in a year; well-bred showed some potential with decent turf sprint try in his second start but ends up here with trainer Gary House who points to the Ellis meet but this one figures to need a start or two.

Selections **7-6-3-4**

SECOND – ELLIO has some good tactical speed, usually a benefit in the one mile dirt races, and posted a 2nd and 3rd last two starts at Churchill. He should get a nice trip just behind DU BEC who is down on the rail and stretching out from sprint races. DU BEC's form improved when he came north from Gulfstream but been facing easier at Belterra and Mountaineer; could see him well clear early but last two tries at a mile faded. BOOMER SIX will be passing them late this is a class drop off that last race against \$5000 starter allowance field. SKY BLUE MONGOLIA gets nice rider change to Corey Lanerie today; improved his last two races taking the blinkers off and stretched out to a mile but this field probably a little tougher.

Selections **5-3-1-7**

THIRD – G MIRACLE looks like she'll be odds-on here but a repeat of recent maiden win looks tough to beat. She made all the running that day and only one other in this field has much early speed. Corey Lanerie was aboard for the win and returns today. TRULY TRUDY came back from a year layoff to win at Indiana but she'd have to move up several lengths to catch the top pick. OLYMPIC SMOKE has a little intrigue. She blew the break last race but her last two dirt races were ok, two starts back she was in allowance company at Mountaineer and previous main track start was the maiden win at Gulfstream.

Selections **6-1-4-3**

FOURTH – DERBY FAN was 2nd as the favorite in a dirt race last time out at Churchill for this claiming price. Hasn't been on turf yet, surprising for a Mike Maker trained horse but did break the maiden on Polytrack and might take to the grass; one of only three in the field to win at a mile – lukewarm pick. SUPERSONIC was a winner here last summer but hasn't raced in a year. 5-year old Kittens Joy gelding is best bred horse in the race for turf and been working locally for last few months, just thinking he'll need a race. SAMICEAN is one of two in the field for trainer Ken McPeck, this German-bred won at first asking last fall on the grass but hasn't come close to repeating that effort; big drop today and logical to expect some improvement but not convinced based on recent form.

Selections **6-3-2-1**

FIFTH – TOTAL IMMERSION has been very consistent, no worse than 4th in his last six starts and just missed as runner-up last two races. He won't be much of a price, been beaten favorite three of last five times but should get a nice pace set-up with at least 2-3 others here wanting the lead to set up his late run. Indiana-bred PAINTED VALLEY was in good form at Turfway this winter but allowance company at Indiana was way too tough. Off since April, he shows couple nice morning works for the return. STORMIN GREELEY got back in the winners circle last race when he returned to sprinting after five races going a mile. Maybe it was the cutback but he's done well at ¾ mile with half of dozen starts on the board. VALID COMMANDER has been on and off this year; last win came at today's distance but was against Arkansas-breds at Oaklawn. His last two dirt races put him in the mix but more likely for underneath spot.

Selections **2-10-3-5**

SIXTH – DONE DEAL tries sprinting on the turf after three good efforts on the dirt this spring. He showed speed two races back and held the lead to deep stretch going ¾ mile, then barely missed going seven furlongs last race. I like the cutback given he's proven he can be close early and still have plenty in the tank to finish. He's well bred for grass and rider Chris Landeros has been aboard for every start. Two first time starters RUE DE MUSIQUE and GUESS FIRST come from high profile barns that can win early. MUSIQUE for Mark Casse has a couple of bullet morning works and they do a little better on the turf than Steve Asmussen, who is a little better with first time runners. AEROSTAR would be my price play underneath; best race was turf sprinting and should appreciate the shorter trip after two tries routing.

Selections **5-3-4-7**

SEVENTH – Nine maiden 2-year olds sprinting on the main track include four first timers. WARRIOR'S CLUB is the Wayne Lukas trained colt owned by a racing club set up by Churchill Downs to include dozens of smaller investors. He ran ok first start, 5th with some traffic problems and adds Lasix here. ARTFUL UNION debuts for trainer Brendan Walsh who saddles 16% winners first time out and this one ridden by Brian Hernandez; he and Walsh won 2-of-3 races together at last years Ellis meet and they've combined for over 40% wins in the last year. SIR DOUGLAS was a \$175,000 sale purchase earlier this year and ran 4th in his only start; he also adds Lasix and would expect improvement today.

Selections **5-9-2-7**

EIGHTH – CAROLINA JASMINE makes the third start after a layoff and was impressive winner last race on the dirt. She was in against \$30,000 claimers, stalked the pace and drew off in a field of ten. Has run 2nd twice in three tries on the grass, fast enough to get the lead or be just off the early pace and nice post position in this overflow field. COMICA's lone win came turf sprinting and in her other grass sprint at Keeneland had all kinds of traffic problems; beaten just a couple lengths in last two dirt tries looking for better finish with return to the turf. KITETA cuts back from longer races and would benefit from a fast early pace; adds blinkers today for the shorter distance and might help her be closer.

Selections **4-6-1-11**

NINTH – Not crazy about the post position but ARBORETUM is the pick here. He's in good form, a win in his last race following two runner-up tries; rested for six weeks to run here where he's won twice on the turf in four starts. He usually comes from far back but since taking blinkers off this year has been closer to early pace. Texas-bred MAGNA BREEZE has the highest lifetime earnings, most of them on the grass and drops to this bottom level \$5000 claiming race off a couple disappointing tries at Gulfstream against tough allowance company. Races this winter at Sam Houston and anything close to last year would win this but he's been favored in almost all his races and expecting another low price today. 7-year old ALANDTOM has run well at Ellis in the past; making third start after a layoff and willing to ignore the last race when taken off the turf but more likely for a minor spot. Longshot look to SALTY RIM who has only tried turf once but bred to like the surface and his last two mile races on dirt show can handle the stretch out.

Selections **11-5-2-10**